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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1652  
Examiner : R. Hutson  
Serial No. : 08/808,031  
Filed : March 3, 1997  
Inventor : Sumiko Inouye  
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: Masayori Inouye  
: Susan Eagle  
: Bert C. Lampson  
: Jung Sun  
: Jorge Vallejo-Ramirez  
Title : PROKARYOTIC REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE

Docket: 1491-CIP10-00  
(Formerly 377.5888P)

Dated: *Draft*

**DECLARATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 1.131**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I, Bert Lampson, hereby declare that I am the inventor in the above-identified application which benefits from a filing date of June 30, 1994;

that this invention was conceived in this country long prior to July, 1993, the publication date of Rice et al., entitled "Diversity of Retron Elements in a Population of Rhizobia and Other Gram-Negative Bacteria" *Journal of Bacteriology*;

that I am a co-author of the Rice et al. publication;

that I had reduced the invention to practice at least by January 19, 1993;

that I had worked substantially continuously with my attorney from January, 1993 to the time of the filing of the instant application;

that I do not know and do not believe that this invention has been in public prior to this application; and

that I have never abandoned the invention.

I further declares that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert Lampson  
Bert Lampson

Date: 6/26/01